

August 31, 2003

To The FCC Committee Hearing testimony on the VEC petition to eliminate Element One requirement for Morse Code in the Amateur service.

I respectfully request that you abolish the requirement on the grounds that I have personal knowledge of at least 50 persons that are working as radio dispatchers for different law enforcement agencies, in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area who would become Hamm's but can't learn the morse code for different reasons.

I myself am a Hamm, call KD5AKY and have become a Hamm after many years of trying to learn the morse code and did learn but when testing took place at a Hammfest, the exam was given in a Elementary School Cafeteria and my hearing is fried from being a plane captain in the U.S. Navy and working next to jet aircraft engines turning up. The tones just ran together and echoed.

After that I gave up and resigned myself to remaining a Tech No Code. I am 57 years old and the doctors say my hearing will get no better. I realize that 5 words per minute is not difficult for normal non disabled persons but it puts a great burden on those who are hearing disabled.

I have taken the test for my General Ticket but have to get the 5 words per minuet requirement to move up and that is impossible for me to do. I am now retired from Law Enforcement and suffer from a heart condition. I would like to obtain my General Ticket before I pass, sort of a return of a favor of a now deceased Hamm Mr. A.D. Treloar WB5QAF. It was he who was my mentor and tried for years to make me a Hamm that was before the tech no code class existed, but with my hearing I could not get it down. The testing no matter what the intentions just varies with equipment and locations. Disabled hearing persons have no chance as the requirement for 5 words a minuet, after that you can get a doctors statement of hearing loss and proceed up the different licenses classes. So in closing I respectfully request that you honor the VEC's petition to abolish the Element One requirement along with most if not all of the worlds other nations that have already done so.

Thank you for your time  
Sincerely Frank J. Still Sr.